

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (currently amended)      A surgical instrument, comprising:
  - an elongate implement portion responsive to a firing motion to perform a surgical procedure;
  - and
  - a handle connected to the elongate implement portion, comprising:
    - a firing mechanism operably configured to produce full travel of the firing motion between an unfired position and a fully fired position,
    - a firing trigger engageable to the firing mechanism during a plurality of firing strokes to move the firing mechanism during a plurality of firing strokes to from the unfired position toward the fully fired position, and
    - an indicator member rotationally related to the firing mechanism to indicate the position of the firing mechanism during firing, the indicator member moveable from the unfired to the fully fired position;

wherein the handle further comprises a housing and the indicator member includes a knob exposed by the housing;

wherein the indicator member is disengageable from the firing mechanism during firing;

wherein the indicator member comprises an indicator gear having at least one dwell area and a gear section, the gear section engageable to the firing mechanism.
2. (original)    The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the indicator member includes an actuator, the indicator member coupled to the firing mechanism for transferring a return motion from the actuator to urge the firing mechanism toward the unfired position.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended)      The surgical instrument of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the handle when grasped laterally exposes the knob, the handle further comprising a lever attached to the knob and extending longitudinally for actuation by either hand.
5. – 6. (canceled)      .

7. (currently amended) The surgical instrument of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the firing mechanism includes a rack portion, the handle further comprising an idler gear enmeshed with the rack portion and registered to engage the gear section of the indicator gear.

8. (currently amended) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the elongate implement portion comprises an end effector, the [[said]] end effector comprises a stapling device responsive to the longitudinal firing motion to perform the surgical operation of stapling.

9. (currently amended) The surgical instrument of claim 8, wherein the elongate implement portion further comprises a shaft, the [[said]] end effector comprises:

an elongate channel connected to the [[said]] shaft;

an anvil pivotally coupled to the [[said]] elongate channel for clamping tissue; and

a staple cartridge received in the [[said]] elongate channel;

wherein the [[said]] firing member distally terminates in a firing bar operably configured to actuate the [[said]] staple cartridge to form staples in the clamped tissue.

10. – 12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A surgical instrument, comprising:

an elongate implement portion responsive to a firing motion to perform a surgical procedure;  
a handle operated by a user;

a firing member communicating the firing motion from the handle to the elongate implement portion;

a firing mechanism engageable to the firing member and operably configured to produce full travel of the firing motion between an unfired position and a fully fired position,

a firing trigger engageable to the firing mechanism during at least one firing stroke to move the firing mechanism from the unfired position toward the fully fired position, and

a manual retraction member configured for actuation by an operator and operably configured to impart a return motion to the firing member 3. —The surgical instrument of claim 2;

wherein the handle further comprises a housing and the indicator member includes a knob exposed by the housing;

wherein the manual retraction member is disengageable from the firing mechanism during firing;

wherein the manual retraction member comprises an indicator gear having at least one dwell area and a gear section, the gear section engageable to the firing mechanism.

14. (currently amended) The surgical instrument of claim 13, wherein the manual retraction member further comprises a retraction knob, the handle when grasped laterally exposes the retraction knob, the handle further comprising a lever attached to the knob and extending longitudinally for actuation by either hand.

15. – 16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The surgical instrument of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 13, wherein the firing mechanism includes a rack portion, the handle further comprising an idler gear enmeshed with the rack portion and registered to engage the gear section of the indicator gear.

18. (currently amended) The surgical instrument of claim 13, wherein the elongate implement portion comprises an end effector, the ~~[[said]]~~ end effector comprises a stapling device responsive to the longitudinal firing motion to perform the surgical operation of stapling.

19. (currently amended) The surgical instrument of claim 18, wherein the elongate implement portion further comprises a shaft, the ~~[[said]]~~ end effector comprises:  
an elongate channel connected to the ~~[[said]]~~ shaft;  
an anvil pivotally coupled to the ~~[[said]]~~ elongate channel for clamping tissue; and  
a staple cartridge received in the ~~[[said]]~~ elongate channel;  
wherein the ~~[[said]]~~ firing member distally terminates in a firing bar operably configured to  
actuate the ~~[[said]]~~ staple cartridge to form staples in the clamped tissue.

20. (original) The surgical instrument of claim 19, wherein the implement portion is dimensionally sized for endo-scopic surgical procedures.